

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 100692

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY: SENATOR THURMOND

REF: MANILA 5653

1.SENATOR THURMOND RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER, NOVEMBER 24
FROM LOUIS Y. DAWSON: QUOTE: DEAR SENATOR: (PARA) WE ARE
THE GENERAL CONTRACTORS FOR THE RESTORATION OF FT. MOULTRIE
111, SULLIVAN'S ISLAND, S.C. THIS PROJECT IS BEING
COMPLETED IN TIME FOR OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.
(PARA) EVEN THOUGH THIS DOES NOT RELATE TO OUR PROJECT,
IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION THAT THE PARK SERVICE
IS UNABLE TO FIND A 10" DISAPPEARING CANNON TO BE USED
AT BATTERY JASPER. (PARA) WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE A
8" DISAPPEARING CANNON WHICH IS TOO SMALL FOR JASPER
BUT WILL BE DISPLAYED IN AN ADJOINING AREA. (PARA) SINCE
FT. MOULTRIE WAS THE LAST POST FOR THE COAST
ARTILLERY, THE DISAPPEARING CANNON IS AN AWESOME REMINDER
OF THE WEAPONS NEEDED TO PROTECT OUR SHORES FROM INVADING
ENEMIES. (PARA) WE ARE IN HOPES THAT YOU WOULD TRY TO
OBTAIN A 10" DISAPPEARING CANNON FOR THE NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE TO BE USED AS A DISPLAY ON BATTERY JASPER.

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WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE MISCELLANEOUS DISAPPEARING CANNONS IN THE PHILIPPINES WHICH ARE OBSOLETE AND NOT IN USE. MAYBE ONE OF THESE COULD BE OBTAINED FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. UNQUOTE.

2. ON DECEMBER 17, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TOLD SENATOR THURMOND IN REPLY TO HIS INQUIRY THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THERE WERE 10 INCH DISAPPEARING GUNS IN THE PHILIPPINES IN UNDETERMINED CONDITION. FINAL PARAGRAPH OF PARK SERVICE LETTER READS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: IF THE SERVICE WERE TO OBTAIN ONE OF THESE GUNS FROM THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO EXAMINE THEM AND TO WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE. THIS, WE FEEL, LIES OUTSIDE THE AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND FALLS MORE CLOSELY WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF EITHER THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. IF THE WAY COULD BE PAVED THROUGH YOUR GOOD OFFICES, WE WOULD BE MORE THAN PLEASED TO WORK WITH EITHER OR THESE DEPARTMENTS TOWARD THE GOALS THAT MR. DAWSON SUGGESTS. UNQUOTE.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY CHECKING WITH GOP TO ASCERTAIN IF ANY 10 INCH CANNON ARE AVAILABLE IN PHILIPPINES. SISCO

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